

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Baselines in Environmental Programs and Markets

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Conservation programs encourage farmers to make production decisions that prioritize production of environmental services as well as commodities. The most economically efficient conservation programs provide farmers with incentives to improve their environmental performance, and the flexibility to decide how to achieve such improvements, rather than paying for specific practices. A critical part of designing performance-based programs is the selected a "baseline" level of environmental performance that changes can be measured against. This report examines the issues involved in establishing a baseline for determining the environmental improvements that qualify for payment or credit under performance-based conservation programs and markets.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 03/01/11 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

